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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/689,254 | 10/20/2003 | Horst Leitner | AMERMOT.022C1 | 3860 |

20995 7590 09/07/2004

KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

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| EXAMINER |
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KLEBE, GERALD B

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3618

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO/ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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20040902

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

In response to the "Request for Clarification" filed 08/18/2004, regarding application Ser. No. 10/689254, refer to the attached.

GB Klebe
GB Klebe / Examiner / Art Unit 3618
2 September 2004


CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

RESPONSE to REQUEST for CLARIFICATION

1. Applicant's Request for Clarification filed August 18, 2004 in response to receipt of the Notice of Allowability on application 10/689254 mailed July 23, 2004, is acknowledged. Applicant's Request includes a listing of references of record in the parent (09/817897, now US Patent No. 6,641,158) as well as a listing of commonly-owned patents and co-pending applications, and references of record related thereto.
2. The examiner has reviewed the list and hereby affirms that all references listed were considered as part of the process of examination of the present application 10/689254. A copy of Applicant's list with the examiner's annotations and signature in attestation as to their consideration in the examination of 10/689254 is provided as an attachment hereto.
3. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communication(s) from the examiner should be directed to Gerald B. Klebe at 703-305-0578, fax 703-872-9306; Mon.-Fri., 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET, or to Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher P. Ellis, Art Unit 3618, at 703-308-2560.

Official correspondence should be sent to the following TC 3600 Official Rightfax numbers as follows: Regular correspondence: 703-872-9326; After Finals: 703-872-9327; Customer Service: 703-872-9325.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


gbklebe / Art Unit 3618 / 2 September 2004

Attachment


CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

AMERMOT.022C1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT
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AUG 18 2004

Applicant : Horst Leitner
Appl. No. : 10/689,254
Filed : October 20, 2003
For : RETRACTABLE VEHICLE
STEP
Examiner : Gerald B. Klebe

) Group Art Unit: 3618

) CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
) marked attachments are being facsimile
) transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office
) on the date shown below:

August 18, 2004

(Date)

Mark J. Kett
Mark J. Kett, Reg. No. 43,711

OFFICIAL

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on July 23, 2004, Applicant submits the following Request for Clarification.

I. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN PARENT APPLICATION NO. 09/817,897

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered, pursuant to M.P.E.P. §§ 609 and 2001.06(b), the following references which are of record in the parent (serial no. 09/817,897, now U.S. Patent No. 6,641,158) of the present application:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

| PATENT NO. | DATE | INVENTOR(S) |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 2,436,961 A | 3/1948 | Gabriel |
| 2,575,615 A | 11/1951 | Crump |

Appl. No. : 10/689,254
Filed : October 20, 2003

| PATENT NO. | DATE | INVENTOR(S) |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| ✓ 3,172,499 A | 3/1965 | Stairs |
| ✓ 3,528,574 A | 9/1970 | Denner et al. |
| ✓ 3,833,240 A | 9/1974 | Weiler |
| ✓ 3,887,217 A | 6/1975 | Thomas |
| ✓ 3,889,997 A | 6/1975 | Schoneck |
| ✓ 3,957,284 A | 5/1976 | Wright |
| ✓ 4,020,920 A | 5/1977 | Abbott |
| ✓ 4,073,502 A | 2/1978 | Frank et al. |
| ✓ 4,106,790 A | 8/1978 | Weiler |
| ✓ 4,110,673 A | 8/1978 | Nagy et al. |
| ✓ 4,116,457 A | 9/1978 | Nerem et al. |
| ✓ 4,180,143 A | 12/1979 | Clugston |
| ✓ 4,188,889 A | 2/1980 | Favrel |
| ✓ 4,623,160 A | 11/1986 | Trudell |
| ✓ 4,720,116 A | 1/1988 | Williams et al. |
| ✓ 4,909,700 A | 3/1990 | Fontecchio et al. |
| ✓ 4,982,974 A | 1/1991 | Guidry |
| ✓ 5,085,450 A | 2/1992 | DeHart, Sr. |
| ✓ 5,199,731 A | 4/1993 | Martin |
| ✓ 5,257,847 A | 11/1993 | Yonehara |
| ✓ 5,284,349 A | 2/1994 | Bruns et al. |
| ✓ 5,286,049 A | 2/1994 | Khan |
| ✓ 5,375,864 A | 12/1994 | McDaniel |
| ✓ 5,462,302 A | 10/1995 | Leitner |
| ✓ 5,498,012 A | 3/1996 | McDaniel et al. |
| ✓ 5,506,476 A 5505476A <i>MAK</i> | 4/1996 | Maccabee |
| ✓ 5,538,269 A | 7/1996 | McDaniel et al. |
| ✓ 5,547,040 A | 8/1996 | Hanser et al. |
| ✓ 5,601,300 A | 2/1997 | Fink et al. |
| ✓ 5,842,709 A | 12/1998 | Maccabee |
| ✓ 5,941,342 A | 8/1999 | Lee |
| ✓ 5,957,237 A | 9/1999 | Tigner |
| ✓ 6,082,751 A | 7/2000 | Hanes et al. |

MAK

Appl. No. : 10/689,254
Filed : October 20, 2003

| PATENT NO. | DATE | INVENTOR(S) |
|----------------|---------|---------------|
| ✓ 6,149,172 A | 11/2000 | Pascoe et al. |
| ✓ 6,213,486 B1 | 4/2001 | Kunz et al. |
| ✓ 6,270,099 B1 | 8/2001 | Farkash |
| ✓ 6,375,207 B1 | 4/2002 | Dean et al. |
| ✓ 6,435,534 B1 | 8/2002 | Stone |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

| COUNTRY | NUMBER | DATE |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| ✓ Germany | 31 51 621 A1 | 12/1981 |
| ✓ Germany | 89 10 933 89/10 933.3 <i>M/K</i> | 9/1989 |
| ✓ Great Britain | 934387 | 8/1963 |
| ✓ Japan | 63 255144 | 10/1988 |
| ✓ Japan | 4-339040 | 11/1992 |

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

| |
|--|
| ✓ Suppliers; AAS looks at New Markets.(Advanced Accessory Systems LLC) (Brief Article) (Product Announcement); Ward's Auto World, pNA, Dec., 2000. |
| ✓ AN Archives; Weeks of Nov. 13-26, 1997; Powerforce pickup; http://ms.ecol.net/newcars/auto1113.htm . |
| ✓ Camping World advertisement. |

M/K

Appl. No. : 10/689,254
 Filed : October 20, 2003

II. COMMONLY-OWNED PATENTS AND CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following commonly-owned patents and co-pending applications for possible double patenting by the claims currently pending in the present application:

| PATENT NO. | ISSUED | INVENTOR(S) |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| ✓ 6,641,158 | November 4, 2003 | Leitner |

| SERIAL NO. | FILING DATE | INVENTOR(S) |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| ✓ 10/274,418 | October 16, 2002 | Leitner et al. |
| ✓ 10/641,358 | August 14, 2003 | Leitner |
| ✓ 10/643,708 | August 19, 2003 | Leitner et al. |

III. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN COMMONLY-OWNED CO-PENDING APPLICATION NO. 10/274,418

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following references that are of record in commonly-owned co-pending application no. 10/274,418:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

| PATENT NO. | DATE | INVENTOR(S) |
|-------------|---------|---------------|
| ✓ 2,487,921 | 11/1949 | Culver |
| ✓ 2,764,422 | 9/1956 | McDonald |
| ✓ 2,925,876 | 2/1960 | Wagner |
| ✓ 3,039,562 | 6/1962 | Wagner |
| ✓ 4,733,752 | 3/1988 | Sklar |
| ✓ 5,154,125 | 10/1992 | Renner et al. |
| ✓ 5,538,100 | 7/1996 | Hedley |

✓ 4/57K

Appl. No. : 10/689,254
Filed : October 20, 2003

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the issues detailed above. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Aug. 18, 2004

By: Mark Kertz

Mark J. Kertz
Registration No. 43,711
Attorney of Record
2040 Main St., Fourteenth Floor
Irvine, CA 92614
(949) 760-0404

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*All references were considered when examining
the present application 10/689 254.*

*MB Klebe
EXAMINER, ART UNIT 3618
2 September 2004*